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(54) Title: FLUSHABLE AND ANAEROBICALLY DEGRADABLE FILMS AND LAMINATES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to thermoplastic materials which are anaerobically degradable in an active sewage sludge. These materials are melt processable into fibers, films or laminates, and are suitable for use in an absorbent article, particularly flushable interlabial products, tampons and pantyliners.

Inte onal Application No PCT/US 01/24834

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61L15/62 A61L A61L15/18 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B32B A61L A61F C08K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to daim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category * US 5 509 913 A (YEO RICHARD S C) 1-10 A 23 April 1996 (1996-04-23) example 15 claims 1-10 WO 95 17216 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) A 29 June 1995 (1995-06-29) claims US 5 391 423 A (WNUK ANDREW J ET AL) 1-10 A 21 February 1995 (1995-02-21) cited in the application column 14, line 1 -column 15, line 25 claims -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the International search report 04/03/2002 25 February 2002 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Thornton, S

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